



FAQs: What Can and Cannot Be Done with ACLED Data on Disorder Involving Peacekeepers

The scope of the data

Q: How does ACLED define ‘peacekeepers’?

A: Peacekeepers include all actors directly affiliated with official ‘peacekeeping missions’. These are defined as any military action designed to keep the peace with the consent of parties involved by remaining impartial in the conflict and by refraining from force, except in the case of self-defense or defense of the mandate. There are several different peacekeeping actors in the ACLED dataset, unlike some other actors with curated files who are represented by a single ‘general’ actor (e.g. Journalists, Health Workers, etc.). All peacekeeping actors are international coalition groups such as the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), or the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Other international coalitions whose primary goal is to pursue force against certain groups will *not* be defined as ‘peacekeepers’ (e.g. the Global Coalition against Daesh). A non-exhaustive list (as this list is regularly updated) of peacekeeping actors is included on the final page of this document.

Q: What does ‘disorder involving peacekeepers’ mean?

A: Disorder involving peacekeepers refers to all events in which members of an official peacekeeping group are included. These can vary from violent events (like battles) to events in which they are targeted (like violence against civilians) to non-violent events (like strategic developments). In their role as armed actors, peacekeepers can be found in both the primary *actor* and the *associated actor* columns as they are often involved in events alongside allies, such as local state forces. On occasion, peacekeepers can also be found as *associated actors* to Civilians when non-military support workers are involved (e.g. a civilian vehicle, part of a MINUSMA logistics convoy, hits an IED), or as *associated actors* to Protesters if involved in peaceful demonstrations (e.g. national staff members of MONUSCO protested against the downsizing of the mission).

Q: Do these data capture all types of violence that peacekeepers face?

A: No. Only political violence is included, meaning that criminal violence is excluded. For example, if a peacekeeper is killed during a domestic dispute, or by criminals during a robbery, this event would not be coded as it is not *political* violence (which is ACLED’s catchment).

Q: Can these data tell me how many peacekeepers are involved in, or targeted in, an event?

A: No. ACLED is an event-based dataset, meaning that each entry in the dataset is an ‘event’; events are denoted by the involvement of designated actors, occurring in a specific named location and on a specific day. An event can involve one to many participants – and these participants can be from multiple groups. Even in events in which there are reported fatalities among peacekeepers, those fatalities would be aggregated together with all other reported fatalities for that event without being distinguished. A primary consideration when determining whether or not to capture the number of individuals in events was a lack of, or inconsistency in, reports of this nature. Non-fatal casualties and/or the presence of non-injured combatants or civilians are most often not reported by sources, and when they are, can be susceptible to biases. Further, vague fatality estimates over

large-scale events (e.g. *multiple* peacekeepers were killed during a battle in X district) are common, especially in regions with limited access. The number of *events* should therefore not be conflated with the number of *participants* or *victims* – in the same way that the number of violent events in the ACLED dataset should not be conflated with the number of fatalities. These capture different trends.

Coverage in both time and space

Q: What countries and regions are covered in these data?

A: All countries covered by ACLED – currently 149 countries and territories across Africa, South & Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Southeastern & Eastern Europe & the Balkans, the Caucasus & Central Asia, and Latin America & the Caribbean – are included. Future spatial expansions by ACLED include Western Europe, and East Asia; these new regions and countries will also include this new categorization for all years of coverage, as will any new efforts aimed at historical coding.

Q: Can I do regional comparisons using these data?

A: Yes, with certain caveats. An important point to remember regarding coverage is ACLED's non-uniform coverage of regions over time. ACLED began as an African data project and hence data covering the African continent span back to 1997 (covered to present). An expansion later to South & Southeast Asia means that data covering those regions for the most part span back to 2010 (covered to present). An expansion then to the Middle East means that data covering that region for the most part span back to 2016 (covered to present). Most recently, further expansions have resulted in the coverage of regions with different temporal scopes. It is imperative to keep this in mind when reviewing trends across regions over time so as not to introduce an artificial spike into the data with the introduction of new regions into the timeline. (Please reference [ACLED's coverage](#) for a full list of regions and their coverage periods.) The time period from 2019 to present is easiest to compare across regions as all regions of ACLED coverage cover this period; for time periods extending back before 2019, it is important for the user to ensure they are comparing countries across periods of time that are equally covered (i.e. do not compare trends from 1997 to present between Burundi [where coverage extends back to 1997] and Syria [where coverage extends back to 2017]).

Q: What time period is covered in these data?

A: Temporal coverage across regions of ACLED coverage varies (see Q&A above). Once ACLED begins coverage of a country, it is continuously covered.

Data accessibility

Q: How can I access these data?

A: These data are publicly accessible via ACLED's website as a [curated data file](#). The file is updated on a weekly basis, allowing users to monitor these trends in near-real-time for analysis, programming, early warning, advocacy, and more. You will note that all events involving peacekeepers will include a peacekeeping group in either the *actor* or *associated actor* columns. Other columns such as the *sub-event type* and *country* columns can also be filtered for more specific analysis (e.g. IED attacks involving peacekeepers, or peacekeepers involved in disorder in Somalia). For more on accessibility and relevant stipulations, please see ACLED's [Terms of Use and Attribution Policy](#).

Q: How often are data updated?

A: Data are updated on a weekly basis in conjunction with ACLED's weekly data release schedule (with new data published every Monday/Tuesday covering the week prior, in addition to any supplemental or updated information). ACLED works to maintain a 'living dataset', meaning that in addition to weekly releases of new data covering the week prior, supplementation of historic periods is also ongoing with information from new sources, targeted research, and new partnerships being integrated.

Q: How do I cite these data?

A: Please see ACLED's [Terms of Use and Attribution Policy](#).

Other

Q: How can I help improve ACLED's coverage of disorder involving peacekeepers?

A: If you are an organization collecting information on disorder involving peacekeepers and are interested in a partnership with ACLED to help extend coverage of these threats to peacekeepers further, please reach out to us at admin@acleddata.com.

A non-exhaustive list of peacekeeping actors includes:

- AMIS: African Union Mission in Sudan (2004-2007)
- AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia (2007-)
- ECOMICI: Economic Community of West African States Mission in Ivory Coast (2002-2004)
- ECOMIG: Economic Community of West African States Mission in Gambia (2017-)
- ECOMOG: Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (1990-2003)
- EMOCHM: Military Observation Team on the Cessation of Hostilities (2014-2015)
- EU NAVFOR: European Union Naval Force Somalia (2008-)
- EUFOR RCA: European Union Force in the Central African Republic (2014-)
- EUMM: European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (2008-)
- KFOR: Kosovo Force (1999-)
- MICOPAX: Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in Central African Republic (2008-2013)
- MINUCI: United Nations Mission in Cote d'Ivoire (2003-2004)
- MINURCA: United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (1998-2000)
- MINURCAT: United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (2007-2010)
- MINURSO: United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (1991-)
- MINUSCA: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (2014-)
- MINUSMA: United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (2013-)
- MISAB: Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (1997-1998)
- MISCA: African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (2013-2014)
- MONUA: United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (1997-1999)
- MONUC: United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (1999-2010)
- MONUSCO: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (2010-)
- UNAMID: United Nations/African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (2007-)
- UNAMSIL: United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (1999-2005)
- UNDOF: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (1974-)
- UNFICYP: United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (1964-)
- UNIFIL: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (1978-)
- UNISFA: United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (2011-)
- UNMEE: United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (2000-2008)
- UNMHA: United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (2019-)
- UNMIL: United Nations Mission in Liberia (2003-)
- UNMIS: United Nations Mission in Sudan (2005-2011)
- UNMISS: United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (2011-)
- UNOCI: United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast (2004-)
- UNSOS: United Nations Support Office in Somalia (2009-)